(c) whether it is a fact that Government subsidises the distribution of muriate of potash; if so. the quantum of subsidy approved; and

(d) whether it is mandatory to indicate the basic price, subsidy and net selling price on the package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) As there is no known commercially exploitable source of Muriate of Potash (MOP) within the country, the entire requirement of MOP is met through imports. The sales of MOP for direct application and production of complex fertilizers during 1991-92 were of the order of 22.41 lakh MT. The import of MOP has been decanalised w.e.f. 17-6-1993. Prior to its decanalisa-t ton. imports of MOP have been on Government account.

(c) Government have extended a con cession of Rs. 1.000/- per tonne on sale) of MOP during t993-94. Besides, a com pensation of Rs. 750/- per tonne for direct sales and Rs. 650/- per tonne for sales of MOP to complex units has been provided to compensate for the cost differential of the stocks of MOP imported on Govern ment account and to be sold by Indian Potash Limited on or after 12-6-1993. The benefi. of compensation which is available upto 30-9-1993. is to be passed on to the consumers.

(d) As per the provisions of the Fer tilizer (Control) Order, 1985, it is man datory to print the "Maximum retail price inclusive of all taxes" on the containers of all fertilisers not subject to statutory pricing. The declaration of other infor mation such as basic price, subsidy, etc. on the containers of fertilisers has not been stipulated in the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985.

Per capita consumption of plastics

1334. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIM!: MINISTER b,- pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India pet-capita consumption of plastics is about one Kg. as compared to China's five Kgs. and Thailand's ten Kgs. and a World average of about sixteen Kgs.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take *to widen the* plastics manufacturing base in Tndia as it can virtually replaces natural resources as wood and tin:

(c) whether it is a fact that the direct-employment provided by the plastic corn-version industry is two lakh at present and the indirect-employment is *put* at about twenty lakhs: and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take so that this employment generating Indian petrochemical industry would be full geared to cope with the World situation and that the Industry would be ready for globalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (c) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (d) The main reasons are low indigenous availability of plastics raw materials, consumer preference for natural/ conventional materials, slower acceptance of plastics usage in some areas like agriculture, water management. fruit packaging, etc.

In the recent past certain steps in this direction have been taken like liberalisation in licensing and imports. Investments amounting to about Rs. 25,000 crores have been approved for setting up olefin and aromatic complexes. In order to bring this sector on par with the global sector, steps have been taken such as reduction in capital goods duty from 55 per cent to 35 per cent, de-canalisation of imports of key feedstocks like Naphtha, Kerosene. LPG and taking anti-dumping action to protect the indigenous industry.

All State Governments have been re-quested to support wide application of plastics goods in agriculture, industry and day-to-day life with a *view to* popularising the usage of plastics for saving valuable natural resources.